

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Douglas G. Lowenstein, et al.

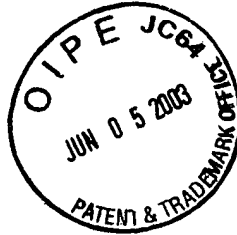
Serial No.: 09/611,548

Filed: July 7, 2000

Examiner: Pedro Kanof

Art Unit: 3628

Title: FINANCING OF TENANT IMPROVEMENTS



I certify that this correspondence, along with any documents referred to therein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on April 29, 2003 as First Class Mail in an envelope with sufficient postage addressed to The Commissioner for Patents, Box AF, Washington D.C. 20231.

David E. Boock

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

1. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant wishes to make of record the information set forth in paragraphs 2 through 6. In addition, Applicant wishes to make of record several items as listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to fully consider the information and items and independently ascertain their teaching before issuance of the next action, and to make them of record in the file. The Examiner is also requested to initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to evidence such consideration.

2. To the best of Applicants' knowledge, the items listed on the Form 1449 were not "published" within the meaning of § 102(b) before July 7, 1999, were not communicated to any party in a manner that would constitute a "commercial offer for sale," and were not communicated to any party in a manner that would constitute "public use."

3. Applicants' activities before July 7, 1999 did not rise to the level of a contractual offer for sale and thus cannot trigger a § 102(b) "on sale" bar. Before July 7, 1999 (the filing date of the provisional application from which this application claims priority):

- a. Applicants never entered discussions that included all parties necessary to formation of a contract that would fall within any claim of this application. For example, no discussion of the invention ever included both a landlord and a tenant.
- b. No party to any discussions proposed an offer containing a definite statement of all material terms, such as price or the time of performance.

- c. No party partially performed under any implied contract that would fall within any claim of the application.
- d. Applicants never communicated any manifestation of willingness to enter into a bargain, so made as to justify another person in understanding that his assent to that bargain is invited and will conclude it.

There was never an offer that another could have made into a binding contract by simple acceptance and consideration, and thus no "on sale" bar.

4. To Applicants' knowledge, there is no § 102(b) "public use" bar. To Applicants' knowledge, there was no actual use of the invention before July 7, 1999.

5. Applicants' activities before July 7, 1999 do not raise a § 102(b) "printed publication" bar. No documents describing the lease structure were made generally available to persons concerned with the art. All discussions with others that disclosed any details of the lease structure claimed in the application were under an explicit written non-disclosure agreement, or under the implicit confidentiality that accompanies the attorney-client or accountant-client relationship. Any presentation that was not under a formal written non-disclosure agreement was limited to a high-level, non-enabling discussion of the structure. No description of the structure that would allow one of skill in the art to reduce the invention to practice was ever made except under an explicit written non-disclosure agreement.

6. For purposes of examination, the Examiner may assume that documents 1-5 listed on the accompanying Form 1449 were disclosed before July 7, 1998, under the circumstances described in paragraphs 2 through 5 above.

7. Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claims over any information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art. This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that information more material to the examination of this application does not exist.

8. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after filing of this application and after the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (where there has been no prior final action), or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. A fee is due pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(2).

9. The \$180.00 fee due under C.F.R. §1.17 was paid with the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 31, 2003.

10. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-0675, Order No. 57634.3.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHULTE ROTH & ZABEL, LLP

Dated: April 29, 2003

By: 

David E. Boundy

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